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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/741,322	12/18/2003	Robert Elmer Sundell	132357	6921
6147 7590 05/31/2007 GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			EXAMINER STINSON, FRANKIE L	
			ART UNIT 1746	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 05/31/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/741,322

Applicant(s)

SUNDELL ET AL.

Examiner

FRANKIE L. STINSON

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1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 8-13, 15-17 and 19-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-13, 15-17 and 19-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8-9, 16, 17 and 19-22 and 24-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akabane et al. (U. S. Pat. No. 5,207,764) in view of either No et al. (U. S. Pat. App. Pub. 2003/0074932) or Japan'293 (Japan 2001-259293).

Re claims 8, 16, 25 and 35, note that Akabane is cited disclosing a washing machine including a wash basket for a washing and extraction, the washing machine and basket comprising:

a cabinet;

an agitator (15)

a housing/basket (12) having an inner wall, bottom wall fabricated by a first process; and a plurality of geometric structures (28), the plurality of geometric structures rigidly attached to and extending radially inwardly from the inner wall, the geometric structures comprising a separate structure relative to the housing that differs from the claims only in the recitation of the geometric structures being , fabricated by a second process and wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is configured for reducing a residual moisture content of an article contained within the wash basket during a spin cycle. Japan'293 and No are each cited disclosing the arrangement of geometric structures wherein a shape of the plurality of geometric structures is configured for reducing residual moisture content. It therefore would have been one

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having ordinary skill in the art to modify the geometric structure in Akabane, to be as taught by either No or Japan'293, for the purpose of enhancing the removal of moisture from the articles. It is old and well known in the art that efficient of moisture removal is directly dependent the ability of the basket, through its perforations, to allow for the separated water to be sufficient carried away. Re claims 9, 17, 30, 31 and 36, to have the structures shaped or to have the specific dimensions, is deemed to be of little patentable weight in view of the corresponding structure in the applied prior art. Re claims 10, 13, 15, 26, , 27, 28, 29, 32, 33, 34 and 37, the No reference discloses the geometric structure as claimed. Re claims 19-22 and 24, Akabane disclose the means for introducing heated air.

3. Claims 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 above, and further in view of Smith (U. S. Pat. No. 3,287,817).

Claims 11 and 23 define over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the porous material. Smith is cited disclosing a geometric structure having porous material (82) as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Akabane, to include porous material as taught by Smith, for the purpose of enhancing the process of residual moisture removal.

4. Claim 12 is are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the applied prior art as applied to claims 8, 16, 25 and 35 above, and further in view of Japan'500 (Japan 2-63500).

Claim 12 defines over the applied prior art only in the recitation of the porous geometric structure. Japan'500 is cited disclosing a porous geometric structure (12) as claimed. It therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the system of Akabane, to include a porous geometric structure as taught by as taught by Japan'500, for the purpose of enhancing the process of residual moisture removal.

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. In Rolkern, Andersen, Walker, Stine, jr. et al., Smith'712, Behrens, Ziegler, Hine and Sights, note the geometric structures.

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the pending claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FRANKIE L. STINSON whose telephone number is (571) 272-1308. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 5:30 am to 2:00 pm and some Saturdays from approximately 5:30 am to 11:30 am.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached on (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

fls



FRANKIE L. STINSON  
Primary Examiner  
GROUP ART UNIT 1746